

Childminder report

Inspection date: 2 March 2022

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children make excellent progress and flourish in the care of this highly experienced and incredibly knowledgeable childminder. They benefit from a curriculum that she expertly plans to thoroughly meet the needs of every child. Children are extremely keen to learn and engage with the exciting range of learning experiences she provides. They are given the space and time to ask questions, investigate and build on what they already know.

Children concentrate intently on the marks they make as they use magnetic pencils and stamps to draw pictures of castles. The childminder engages them in meaningful discussions as they recall their own trip to a local castle. She skilfully weaves in teaching of mathematical concepts as they accurately count and name the shapes of the stamps. Young children begin to learn the language of size and position as the childminder talks to them about the objects being 'larger' and 'smaller', 'beside' and 'behind'.

Children form extremely strong bonds with the childminder, who is highly nurturing. Her commitment to ensuring that she gets to know the children exceptionally well means that they feel happy, relaxed and safe in her care. She has high expectations for all children. Children's behaviour is exceptional for their young age. They demonstrate excellent manners, and the childminder promotes positive behaviour as she successfully supports them to share, take turns and help each other.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The childminder is devoted to ensuring that children make excellent progress. She carefully observes children in all that they do, to establish how she can best support their learning. Her extensive knowledge of child development is evident in the curriculum she creates. She ensures that children are well prepared with the skills and knowledge they need to be ready for school and achieve the best possible outcomes.
- The childminder is passionate about inspiring children to love reading. Children gather round in anticipation as she brings familiar stories to life. Her enthusiasm as she reads has children captivated. Children delight in acting out the stories with props and puppets. They talk about the characters feeling 'worried' and 'happy' as they learn vocabulary to describe emotions.
- The childminder places the utmost priority on ensuring that children have the skills they need to be independent and confident to do things for themselves. They are given ample opportunity to practise and develop their skills. Toddlers show exceptional ability to work together to set the table for lunch. They find their own place mats, pour their own drinks and carefully butter their bread.

They take pride in mastering these tricky tasks for themselves.

- Parents express tremendous amounts of praise for the childminder. They share that they feel extremely well informed about their children's development and supported in continuing their learning at home. The childminder ensures that she gets to know children and their families extremely well through her detailed settling-in processes. She shares her knowledge and skills with parents by providing them with resources and information that support different aspects of children's care and learning. For example, she provides packs to support children during school transitions and information about potty training.
- Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the childminder has worked extensively to ensure that she understands the impact this has had on children's social and emotional development. She has sought meaningful and useful training and development opportunities to enhance her knowledge in supporting children's emotions and feelings. She has placed a strong emphasis on ensuring that she gives children opportunities to socialise in larger groups. Children regularly attend local playgroups and have new experiences in the local community.
- Children learn to make healthy choices. The childminder provides them with nutritious home-cooked meals. They learn the names of different vegetables as they prepare their snacks and talk about the foods they enjoy. They follow good hygiene routines and are well supported to understand the importance of good hygiene from a young age.
- The childminder evaluates her practice and consistently strives to ensure that she is providing an outstanding setting for children to flourish and thrive. She takes time to consider and plan how she can improve and extend her curriculum. She seeks the views of children and parents in order to do this. She is dedicated to ensuring that she is always learning and developing professionally to improve her own knowledge and skills in order to provide children with the best possible outcomes.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder is extremely diligent in ensuring that children in her care are always protected from harm. Her extensive knowledge of child protection issues ensures that she knows what to do if she is worried about a child's welfare. She has a firm understanding of local safeguarding procedures and how to report any concerns. Her health and safety arrangements are extremely effective. Her home is secure and regular safety checks are undertaken. All trips and outings are risk assessed and planned to ensure that children are kept safe at all times. Children are taught to keep themselves safe when handling equipment such as the child-safe knives to butter their bread.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY469437
Local authority	Windsor and Maidenhead
Inspection number	10136745
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 5
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	28 January 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2013 and lives in Eton Wick, Windsor. She operates all year round from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday. The childminder holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 5. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Alice M Roberts

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the childminder received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector observed the quality of education provided and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector took account of parents' views by speaking with them and reading their written comments.
- The childminder and the inspector held discussions at convenient times throughout the inspection.
- The childminder and the inspector carried out a joint evaluation of an activity together.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information, and the safety and security of the premises.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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